



HOUSING OPTIONS for INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



The Host Family Program:

There are many rewarding benefits of participating in the Host Home Program including:

- Exchange of Cultural Knowledge - The Host Home Program provides both host families and students an opportunity to learn about each other's culture.
- Companionship - Some students may suffer culture shock. Students will be surrounded by people who can help with the adjustments of living in a different country.
- Friendship – Students can develop a long lasting friendship with their host families. A host can help international students through lonely or frustrating times.
- Activities – The Host Home Program organizes an activity each semester for both host families and students. For example, we have the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner and “Global” BBQ Potluck.

You'll find that living with a host family is part of your educational experience as you will learn about American life and culture.

How are families chosen?

The Housing Coordinator will make sure that the host family assigned to you will provide a safe as well as an educational environment. Families are screened whether they have prior experiences with a host program and their reasons for hosting an international student. All host family applications are carefully screened. A home visit and inspection are done by the Housing Coordinator.

Family Types:

Our pool of host families varies from full size families with children to single individuals with or without children. Some host families are traditional host families who can provide meals and some are non-traditional who can provide rent only accommodation.

Family Location & Transportation:

Most host families live in Palm Desert. Some families live an acceptable distance from the campus. Transportation can be arranged with the host family. Families who live outside Palm Desert are located near a bus stop.

Two-Week Grace Period:

The Host Home Program allows for a two week grace period from the date you first arrive at the host family's home. The two weeks is set as a trial period to determine if the placement is agreeable between the host family and the student. No contract will be signed during this grace period.

Contract:

Housing placements are based on a one semester contract. Students use a contract with their host family that outlines payment, agreement and house rules. A contract will be signed after the two weeks grace period.

Rent Parameters: Room/Board is \$500.00 per month. Rent Only is \$400.00 per month
(Both arrangements includes utilities)

Deposit : Cleaning Deposit - \$50.00 non-refundable. Phone Deposit - \$50.00 refundable after last statement.

Room: Each student will have a private room with a bed, desk, chair and adequate lighting. Beddings will be provided.

Food: Room/Board host families are expected to prepare dinner 4-5 days a week. Host families will have food available for breakfast and lunch. Students are welcome to make their own meals. Students who choose the Rent Only option with full kitchen privileges.

Laundry Facilities: All host homes have laundry facilities available. Students are expected to do their own laundry.

Telephone: The student is responsible for all long distance phone calls. Family rules will vary on the use of the telephone. A phone deposit is not necessary if you will have your own phone service.

Household Rules: Students are expected to obey house rules. House rules are different from house to house. Your host family will discuss the house rules with you upon arrival. (i.e. smoking, drinking, quiet time, TV use, etc.)

COD' Role:

College of the Desert's International Student Program hosts over 200 international students from a variety of countries. Many of these students want to live with an American family in order to experience American culture and learn the English language. The Host Home Coordinator collects information from interested families, conducts home visits and interviews, places students in homes and monitors the home stay.

Although the contract is an agreement between the host family and the student, the International Education Program is available to assist both the host families and their students throughout the program. The International Student Program has a full-time Host Home Coordinator who is available to answer any questions you may have about our program, and offer assistance.

Student's Comments:

"Living with the host family is like living with my real family". Sharon – Hong Kong

"My host family is wonderful. They took care of me during this semester. I love them very much! They are like my parents"
Anna – Poland

"I have learned so much about the American culture thanks to my host family". Pam - Sweden

Off-Campus Apartments:

College of the Desert also offers assistance to students who are looking for off-campus apartments. All apartments are privately owned so we are not able to guarantee availability. Early application to the apartment is necessary in order to ensure that housing is available. Apartments vary in terms of cost, lease term (generally 6-12 months) and facilities. All apartments are unfurnished, so this will be an additional cost to the student.

If you indicate that you would like an apartment, the Housing Coordinator will provide you with a list of 3 apartment choices in our area. The student will choose the apartment from the list and alert the Housing Coordinator to their choice. The Housing Coordinator will check to see if the apartment is available and then assist the student with deposit and rental arrangements.

Please contact College of the Desert's International Student Program at (760) 776-7205 or email at jferrer@collegeofthedesert.edu for more information on our Housing options.

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